# Atti della società italiana di scienze naturali 1859-1895 and the dates of its parts

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ABSTRACT: Efforts to determine the date of publication of names of Procellariidae in a paper by Giglioli and Salvadori in *Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali* led to an examination of the part publication of this journal. The cover dates and pagination of the parts of volumes I (1859) to XXXV (1895) are tabulated. These cover dates can be taken as dates of publication for the parts and the papers in them.

KEYWORDS: publication date, part publication, Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali, Enrico Giglioli, Tommaso Salvadori.

#### INTRODUCTION

This project began, as many do, with a simple question but developed into a much more broad-ranging inquiry. The rediscovery of the Magenta Petrel *Pterodroma magentae* in 1978 (Crockett, 1979), the first confirmed record of the species since its single type specimen was collected in 1867, focussed attention on the original naming of this species and the question of its correct citation and date. *P. magentae* was one of five new species of Procellariidae described by Enrico H. Giglioli and Tommaso Salvadori in a paper presented to a meeting of the Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali in September 1868. The paper was subsequently published in the Society's journal, the *Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali*, and also in English translation in the journal of the British Ornithologists' Union, *The Ibis*. It has been uncertain which of these has precedence and what the date of first publication was. The publication dates of issues of *The Ibis* at this period are well known (each volume includes a list of contents with dates of the parts), but those of the *Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali* are not. Which part was Giglioli and Salvadori's paper in, and when was it published?

These questions led to wider investigations into the *Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali* and the dates of its parts.

## THE JOURNAL: ATTI DELLA SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI SCIENZE NATURALI

The history of the Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali and its publications is well summarised by Parisi et al. (2000) and Zocchi (2011). The society was first founded in 1855 as the Società Geologica Residente in Milano and began publishing its Atti in 1859 under the title Atti della Società geologica residente in Milano. In 1860 the society resolved to widen its scope and change its name, and its journal title also was changed accordingly to Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali (hereafter ASISN). In 1896 the society moved to closer collaboration with the other major natural history institution in Milan, the civic museum,

and ASISN became their joint journal, Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali e del Museo civico di storia naturale in Milano. It continued under this title, with slight variations, until 2013, when it was succeeded by a new journal, NHS Natural History Sciences. Atti della Società italiana di Scienze Naturali e del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Milano. Here we concentrate on the journal in its earlier stages, from 1859 up to the change of title in 1896.

The dating of papers in *ASISN* has been problematic. For instance, looking just at papers in volume XI, the paper by Giglioli & Salvadori (1869a) at pp. 450-458 was first dated 1868 (Godman 1908: 136; Peters 1931: 64) but then 1869 (Hellmayr & Conover, 1948: 81; Jouanin & Mougin, 1979: 68). More recently a paper by Rondani (1869) at pp. 559-603 has been dated 1868 (O'Hara *et al.*, 2011: 251) or 1869 (Stuke, 2017: 311), while a paper by Canestrini & Pavesi (1869) at pp. 758-872 has been dated 1869 (Tongiorgi, 2001) or 1868 (Guariento *et al.*, 2018). Which is correct?

The problem arises first in recognising that, although bound volumes usually show no sign of it, *ASISN* was published in parts. The parts were issued with paper covers bearing the part number and date, but these covers were generally discarded when the parts were bound into annual volumes, leaving no indication of the dates of the parts or even of the page breaks between them. The volumes do not give this information in their table of contents or anywhere else. Thus in order to determine the date of any particular paper we need to find the pagination of the parts to determine which part the paper is in, and then the date of that part.

Information on the first is readily available. The Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, which still flourishes, provides a file of all the papers published in *ASISN*, listed by volume number and year, part number and initial page number (see http://scienzenaturali.org/riviste/atti/). From this it is possible to determine the volume and part that any paper is in, but the dates of the parts are still required. We obtained these from a variety of sources. Checks of holdings of *ASISN* available to us either in libraries near at hand or online on Biodiversity Heritage Library (www.biodiversitylibrary.org/), Google books (http://books.google.com) or Hathitrust Digital Library (www.hathitrust.org) revealed some volumes with part covers included. Dates of other parts were provided by the Secretary of the Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, Dr. Giorgio Chiozzi, from unbound parts held by the Society. Some dates were also obtained from listings in contemporary journals such as the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London* which regularly reported receipt of parts of *ASISN*. We were also able to examine a few unbound parts and volumes obtained from antiquarian booksellers. To clarify the dating we consider both the volumes of *ASISN* and their parts.

## THE VOLUMES AND THEIR DATES

Apart from the first two volumes for 1855-59 and 1859-60, the volumes of *ASISN* are nominally annual. There are some irregularities: there are no volumes for 1891, 1893 or 1894, but two volumes for 1864. The second volume for 1864, volume VII, is anomalous in other ways as well. It contains two long papers and the proceedings of the society's first congress or special meeting ("riunione straordinaria") held at Biella, with each of these three sections separately paginated. At least two of the three were also issued separately, but not titled as parts of *ASISN*. Volume VII has no parts as such. From the following year particularly long papers were published in a separate series entitled *Memorie della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali*. The proceedings of the society's congresses continued to be included in *ASISN*, as

well as published separately under the title *Atti della riunione straordinaria della Società italiana di scienze naturali*.

The other volumes of *ASISN* were issued in parts and were also offered for sale as complete volumes. From the examples seen, these complete volumes were issued with paper covers printed with the journal title, the volume number, the nominal year ("*Anno 1867*"), and an imprint at the foot with the place, printer and year (see figure 1). A similar printed cover was evidently included also with the volumes issued in parts, as it is often found in those bound volumes which contain part covers.

Each volume has a title page with the same details as on the cover – except that the imprint date on the title page is not always the same as the imprint date on the cover (compare the cover of volume VI in figure 1 and its title page in figure 2). The imprint date on the title page is the same as the nominal volume year, but on about half of the volume covers seen, the imprint date is either a year later than the nominal year, or in some cases (volumes XV, XIX, XXII, XXIV) the cover imprint date spans the nominal year and the following year ("1872-73").

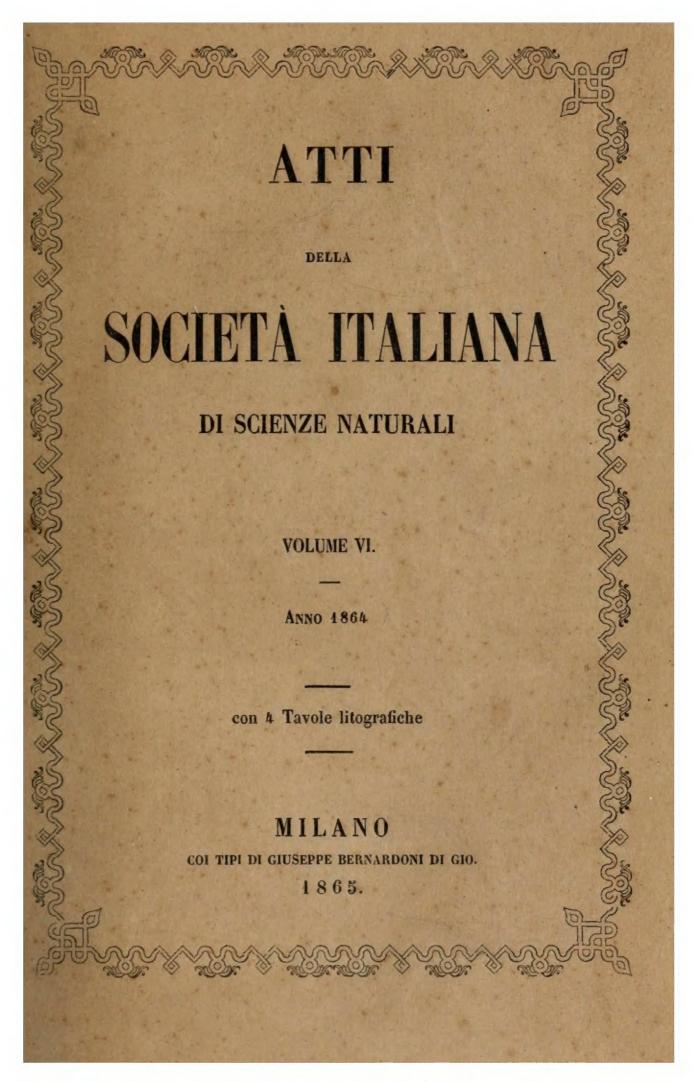
The variations between imprint dates on cover and title page may have arisen from their being printed at different times. Under the press laws in force in Milan in Lombardy from 1860 and subsequently throughout Italy, all printed material was required to be imprinted with the place and year of printing and the workshop and name of the printer (*Legge sulla Stampa, Capo I Art.* 2 – see Castiglioni, 1860: 393; Mel, 1890: 800;). The imprint fulfils this requirement; the imprint date thus can be expected to give the year of printing. Examination of the separate parts of *ASISN* confirms that the title page for each volume was printed as the first page of the first part for the year. The imprint date on the title page thus reflects when printing of the parts of the volume began, not when it was completed.

The separate cover for each volume was probably issued with the last part of the volume, although the variations in the cover imprint date leaves it uncertain whether the printer strictly followed the requirement to indicate its year of printing, or sometimes adjusted the cover imprint date to match the title page imprint date. But either way, the cover and title page imprint dates are unhelpful or misleading when trying to determine a date of publication. For that we need to look at the parts of the volumes.

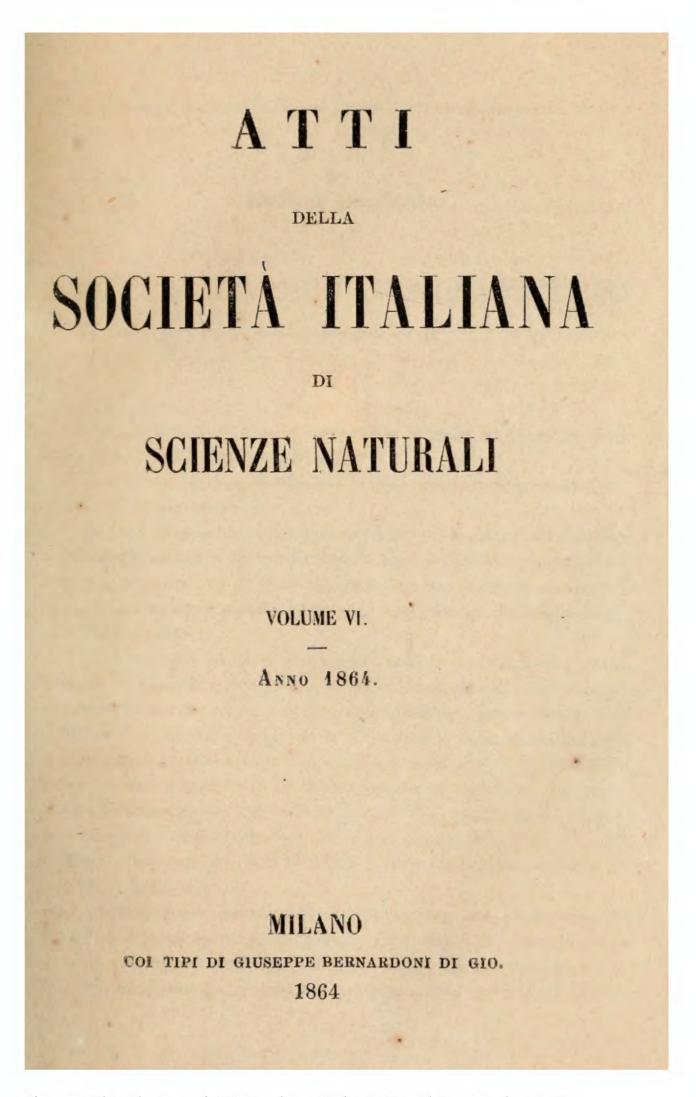
## THE PARTS AND THEIR DATES

Each volume of *ASISN* (aside from volume VII as described above) was issued in parts ("fascicoli"). The number of parts per volume varied from two (volume XXXIII) to six (volume V) but was usually four, although in many cases two parts were combined and issued as one with a double part number ("fascicolo 3-4"). The parts as issued had paper covers with the front cover printed with the journal title, the volume and part numbers, the signatures or gathering numbers ("fogli") of the pages included in the part, and an imprint at the foot (see figure 3). The back cover has a list or index ("indice") with page numbers of the contents of the part (see figure 4). We used the signatures and indexes to check the collation and confirm the pagination of each part.

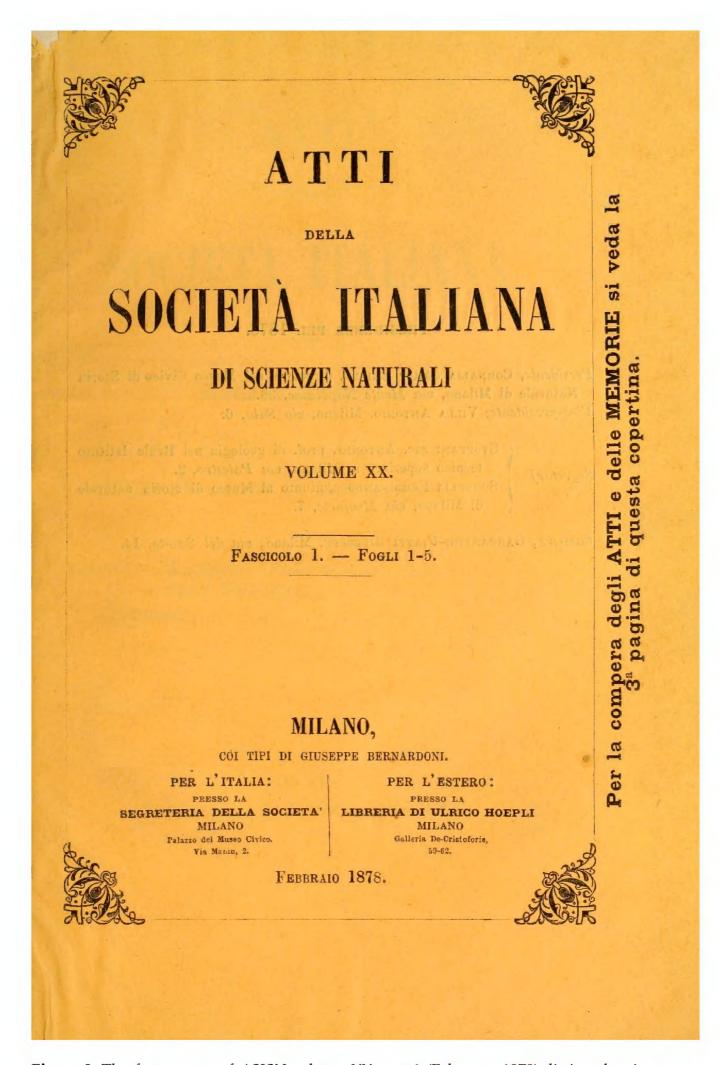
In volumes I and II the imprint date on the parts has the year only, but there is a statement of the month and year of publication printed in the bottom margin ("publicato nel febbrajo 1861"). From volume III, instead of this explicit statement of month of publication, the imprint date gives the month as well as the year (see figure 5). The parts would be expected to be issued and distributed promptly after printing and the cover imprint dates



**Figure 1.** The printed cover of *ASISN* volume VI for 1864, with imprint date 1865. *California Academy of Sciences/Biodiversity Heritage Library* 

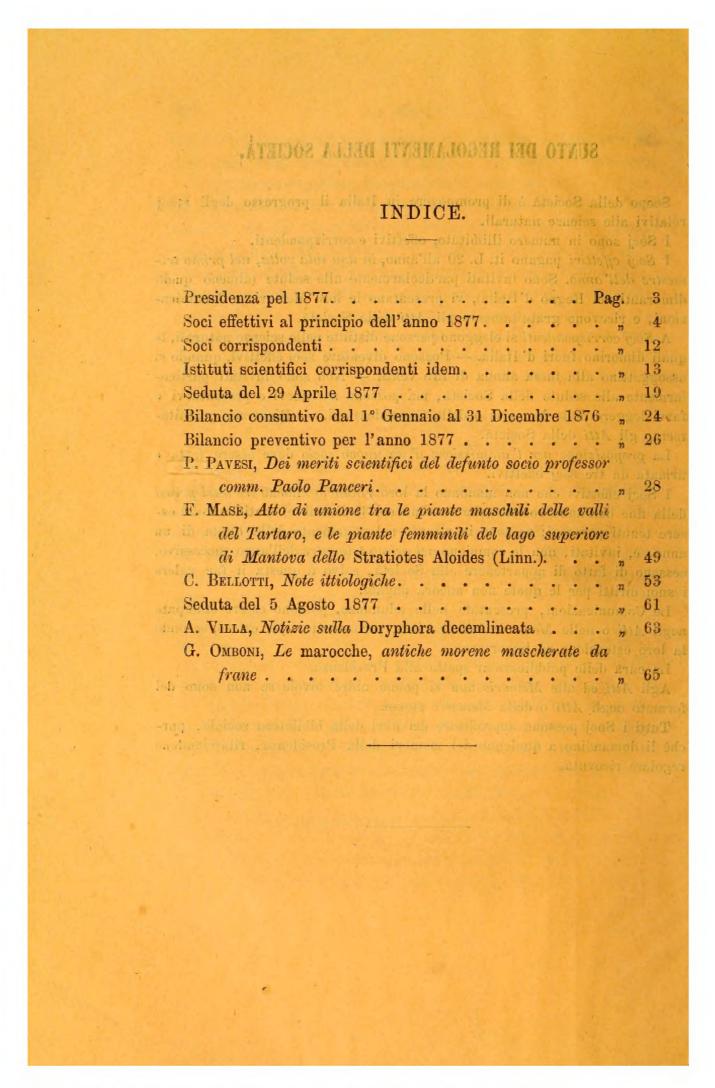


**Figure 2.** The title page of *ASISN* volume VI for 1864, with imprint date 1864. *California Academy of Sciences/Biodiversity Heritage Library* 

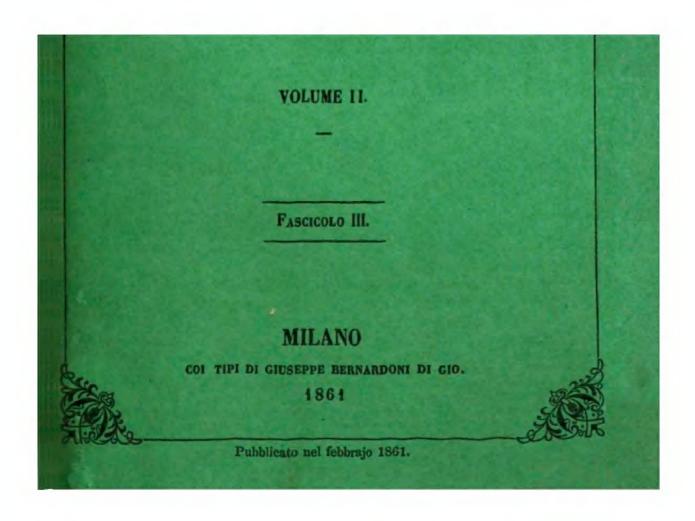


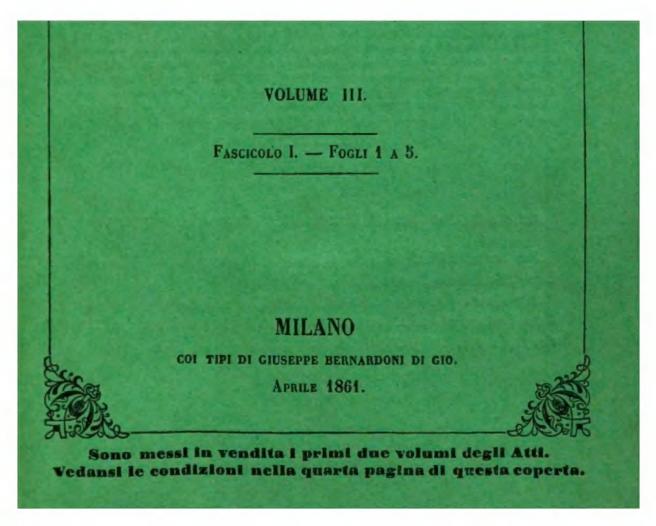
**Figure 3.** The front cover of *ASISN* volume XX part 1 (February 1878), listing the signatures ("fogli") of the pages included.

California Academy of Sciences/Biodiversity Heritage Library



**Figure 4.** The back cover of *ASISN* volume XX part 1, with list of contents. *California Academy of Sciences/Biodiversity Heritage Library* 





**Figure 5.** Part covers of *ASISN*: volume II part 3 (*above*) showing the imprint and the statement of publication date in the bottom margin; and volume III part 1 (*below*) showing the change to an augmented month/year imprint date. The notice in the bottom margin announces that volumes I and II are available for purchase.

Cornell University/Hathitrust Digital Library

appear to be intended to represent the month of publication as well as meeting the legal requirement to provide the year of printing.

As a check of this we took a sample of parts and looked for records of when they were actually distributed, as indicated by their appearance on lists of accessions and donations in the proceedings of other societies. Using the four parts of volume XI as a representative sample, we were able to find records of them being received by another society within a month of their cover imprint date for three of these four parts (see Table 1). We consider that the part imprint dates can be taken as their date of publication, with the usual caveat - "in the absence of evidence to the contrary".

## Table 1. Cover imprint dates of ASISN volume XI parts 1-4 and the earliest dates of receipt found in accession lists of other societies.

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Part 1: cover imprint date June 1868 received by 30 June 1868 (Atti della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino 3 (1868) p. 744)
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Part 2: cover imprint date October 1868 received by 21 February 1869 (Atti del Regio Istituto veneto di scienze, lettere ed arti 14(4) (1869) p. 827)

Part 3: cover imprint date February 1869 received by 31 March 1869 (Reale Istituto lombardo di scienze e lettere. Rendiconti 2 (1869) p. 425)

Part 4: cover imprint date April 1869 received by 23 May 1869 (Atti del Regio Istituto veneto di scienze, lettere ed arti 14(7) (1869) p. 1381)

From the dates of the parts it is clear that publication of all the parts of a volume usually extended from the nominal year into the following year, or in a few cases (volumes XX and XXXIV) into the year after that. Only three volumes (VII, X and XXIX) were evidently completed within the nominal year.

The publication schedule of the parts was sometimes irregular. In 1872-73 difficulties in the society caused delays. The last part of volume XV, nominally for 1872, was not issued until December 1873, and in consequence the next volume (XVI), nominally for 1873, did not even begin until the following year, with parts 1 and 2 both dated January 1874. Even so, the title page for this volume, which was printed as the first page of part 1, is dated 1873. The printer evidently wanted to maintain the usual pattern of the title page imprint date matching the nominal volume year.

When similar delays occurred in volume XX the next volume was not held back until the first was completed. Thus the parts of volume XX, nominally for 1877, were issued during 1878-79, alternating with the parts of volume XXI. Part 1 dated February 1878 has the title page for the volume, dated 1877. It may have been the printer having difficulties at this time: Tipografia Bernardoni, which had printed *ASISN* since its inception, was taken over at the beginning of 1879 by new proprietors and thus from the final parts of volumes XX and XXI, *ASISN* was printed by Tipografia Bernardoni di C. Rebeschini e C. For some years the schedule of publication was maintained but by 1890 there were problems again. By this time the society was struggling (Zocchi, 2011). It held only one meeting that year and volume XXXIII was reduced to just two parts. Over the next five years the Society met only occasionally and production of *ASISN* was spasmodic, with only two volumes in that time, volume XXXIV nominally for 1892 and XXXV nominally for 1895. The latter volume was still

in progress when the society reformed and joined with the local natural history museum to keep the journal going. Thus *ASISN* ended in June 1895 with volume XXXV part 1-2, and reemerged in January 1896 as *Atti della Società italiana di scienze naturali e del Museo civico di storia naturale di Milano* volume XXXV part 3-4.

### **CONCLUSION**

The part dates and paginations tabulated in the Appendix enable us to clarify the dates of papers published in *ASISN*. For instance, the paper by Giglioli and Salvadori that we began with was published in *ASISN* volume XI pp. 450-458. Although volume XI is nominally for 1868 (and the title page has that imprint date) this paper is in part 3, which is dated February 1869. This paper, Giglioli & Salvadori (1869a), is thus preceded by its English version (Giglioli & Salvadori, 1869b), published in *The Ibis* in January 1869. Further questions could be raised whether there might have been advance distribution of separately printed author's copies of the paper, and if so whether this would affect the publication date and citation – but those questions will be left to consider elsewhere.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are grateful to Giorgio Chiozzi, secretary of the Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, for providing details of parts of the *Atti* of the society held in its archives. We are also indebted to the many libraries, great and small, who have made their collections freely available online and accessible to researchers everywhere.

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APPENDIX: Cover dates of the "fascicoli" (fascicles or parts) of the Atti della Società geologica residente in Milano and its successor, Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, 1859-1896.

[dates in square brackets are inferred from other sources when no cover date was obtained]

title: Atti della Società geologica residente in Milano

Volume I ("Anni 1855 a 1859") Cover and title page imprint date 1859

fascicolo 1: "pubblicato nel febbraio 1859" pp. 1-64

fascicolo 2: [May? 1859] pp. 65-124

fascicolo 3: "pubblicato nell' ottobre 1859" pp. 125-354

title henceforth: Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali

**Volume II** ("Anno 1859-60") Cover imprint date 1861; title page imprint date 1860

fascicolo 1: "pubblicato nel giugno 1860" pp. 1-96

fascicolo 2: [by 26 August 1860] pp. 97-248

fascicolo 3: "pubblicato nel febbrajo 1861" pp. 249-312

fascicolo 4: [by April 1861?] pp. 313-372

## Volume III ("Anno 1861") Cover imprint date 1862; title page imprint date 1861

fascicolo 1: April 1861 pp. 1-80 fascicolo 2: June 1861 pp. 81-176 fascicolo 3: August 1861 pp. 177-304 fascicolo 4: November 1861 pp. 305-368 fascicolo 5: April 1862 pp. 369-478

## Volume IV ("Anno 1862") Cover imprint date 1863; title page imprint date 1862

fascicolo 1: May 1862 pp. 1-64 fascicolo 2: August 1862 pp. 65-144 fascicolo 3: December 1862 pp. 145-272 fascicolo 4: March 1863 pp. 273-358

## Volume V ("Anno 1863") Cover and title page imprint date 1863

fascicolo 1: April 1863 pp. 1-48 fascicolo 2: June 1863 pp. 49-112 fascicolo 3: July 1863 pp. 113-176 fascicolo 4: November 1863 pp. 177-352 fascicolo 5: December 1863 pp. 353-400 fascicolo 6: February 1864 pp. 401-487

## **Volume VI** ("Anno 1864") Cover imprint date 1865; title page imprint date 1864

fascicolo 1: April 1864 pp. 1-48 fascicolo 2: May 1864 pp. 49-160 fascicolo 3: August 1864 pp. 161-384 fascicolo 4: October 1864 pp. 385-544 fascicolo 5: March 1865 pp. 545-571

## Volume VII ("Anno 1864") Cover and title page imprint date 1864

Issued as a single volume containing two long papers and the Proceedings of the society's first congress or special meeting ("riunione straordinaria") held at Biella, each with its own pagination.

## Volume VIII ("Anno 1865") Cover and title page imprint date 1865

fascicolo 1: April 1865	pp. 1-96
fascicolo 2: May 1865	pp. 97-192
fascicolo 3: November 1865	pp. 193-252
fascicolo 4: February 1866	pp. 253-508
fascicolo 5: March 1866	pp. 509-560

## Volume IX ("Anno 1866") Cover and title page imprint date 1866

fascicolo 1: June 1866	pp. 1-240
fascicolo 2: November 1866	pp. 241-368
fascicolo 3: March 1867	pp. 369-494

## Volume X ("Anno 1867") Cover and title page imprint date 1867

fascicolo 1: April 1867	pp. 1-144
fascicolo 2: August 1867	pp. 145-272

fascicolo 3: December 1867 pp. 273-460 [date doubtful as this fascicolo includes a report of

the meeting of 29 December 1867 and papers presented at that meeting]

## Volume XI ("Anno 1868") Cover and title page imprint date 1868

fascicolo 1: June 1868	pp. 1-128
fascicolo 2: October 1868	pp. 129-332
fascicolo 3: February 1869	pp. 333-872
fascicolo 4: April 1869	pp. 873-932

## **Volume XII** ("Anno 1869") Cover and title page imprint date 1869 fascicolo 1: August 1869

fascicolo 1: August 1869	pp. 1-236
fascicolo 2: October 1869	pp. 237-406
fascicolo 3: February 1870	pp. 407-732
fascicolo 4: March 1870	pp. 733-787

## Volume XIII ("Anno 1870") Cover and title page imprint date 1870

fascicolo 1: April 1870	pp. 1-56
fascicolo 2: November 1870	pp. 57-200
fascicolo 3: January 1871	pp. 201-275

## Volume XIV ("Anno 1871") Cover and title page imprint date 1871

fascicolo 1: April 1871	pp. 1-80
fascicolo 2: September 1871	pp. 81-140
fascicolo 3: December 1871	pp. 141-240
fascicolo 4: February 1872	pp. 241-304

## Volume XV ("Anno 1872") Cover imprint date 1872-73; title page imprint date 1872

fascicolo 1: May 1872 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: July 1872 pp. 97-132 fascicolo 3: August 1872 pp. 133-174 fascicolo 4: June 1873 pp. 175-350 fascicolo 5: December 1873 pp. 351-594

## Volume XVI ("Anno 1873") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1873

fascicolo 1: January 1874 pp. 1-80 fascicolo 2: January 1874 pp. 81-160 fascicoli 3 and 4: July 1874 pp. 161-440

## Volume XVII ("Anno 1874") Cover and title page imprint date 1874

fascicolo 1: October 1874 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: November 1874 pp. 97-208 fascicolo 3: January 1875 pp. 209-336 fascicolo 4: March 1875 pp. 337-472

## Volume XVIII ("Anno 1875") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1875

fascicolo 1: May 1875 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: August 1875 pp. 97-240 fascicolo 3: November 1875 pp. 241-352 fascicolo 4: March 1876 pp. 353-488

## Volume XIX ("Anno 1876") Cover imprint date 1876-77; title page imprint date 1876

fascicolo 1: June 1876 pp. 1-80

fascicolo 2 and 3: April 1877 pp. 81-384 with cancel leaf pp 75-76, to replace defective pages

fascicolo 4: September 1877 pp. 385-512

## **Volume XX** ("Anno 1877") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1877

Fascicolo 1: February 1878 pp. 1-80 fascicolo 2: August 1878 pp. 81-160 fascicolo 3-4: February 1879 pp. 161-260

## Volume XXI ("Anno 1878") Cover imprint date 1879; title page imprint date 1878

fascicolo 1: July 1878 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: September 1878 pp. 97-192 fascicolo 3-4: July 1879 pp. 193-912

## Volume XXII ("Anno 1879") Cover imprint date 1879-80; title page imprint date 1879

fascicolo 1-2: October 1879 pp. 1-208 fascicolo 3-4: April 1880 pp. 209-400

## **Volume XXIII** ("Anno 1880") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1880

fascicolo 1: June 1880 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: August 1880 pp. 97-192 fascicolo 3: January1881 pp. 193-288 fascicolo 4: May 1881 pp. 289-374 Volume XXIV ("Anno 1881") Cover imprint date 1881-82; title page imprint date 1881

fascicolo 1: August 1881 pp. 1-80 fascicolo 2-3: February 1882 pp. 81-224 fascicolo 4: March 1882 pp. 225-276

Volume XXV ("Anno 1882") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1882

fascicolo 1: June 1882 pp. 1-112 fascicolo 2: September 1882 pp. 113-240 fascicolo 3: February 1883 pp. 241-320 fascicolo 4: April 1883 pp. 321-400

Volume XXVI ("Anno 1883") Cover imprint date 1884; title page imprint date 1883

fascicolo 1: June 1883 pp. 1-112 fascicolo 2: August 1883 pp. 113-224 fascicolo 3: October 1883 pp. 225-336 fascicolo 4: January 1884 pp. 337-420

Volume XXVII ("Anno 1884") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1884

fascicolo 1: April 1884 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: June 1884 pp. 97-204 fascicolo 3-4: February 1885 pp. 205-400

Volume XXVIII ("Anno 1885") Cover imprint date 1886; title page imprint date 1885

fascicolo 1: May 1885 pp. 1-96 fascicolo 2: September 1885 pp. 97-164 fascicolo 3-4: March 1886 pp. 165-323

Volume XXIX ("Anno 1886") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1886

fascicolo 1: June 1886 pp. 1-140 pp. 141-360

fascicolo 4: December 1886 pp. 361-534 with coloured plate to be inserted in fascicolo 2-3

**Volume XXX** ("Anno 1887") Cover imprint date 1888; title page imprint date 1887

fascicolo 1-2: May 1887 pp. 1-192 fascicolo 3: August 1887 pp. 193-310 fascicolo 4: February 1888 pp. 311-414

Volume XXXI ("Anno 1888") Cover imprint date not seen; title page imprint date 1888

fascicolo 1: April 1888 pp. 1-128 fascicolo 2: July 1888 pp. 129-230 fascicolo 3-4: April 1889 pp. 231-432

Volume XXXII ("Anno 1889") Cover imprint date 1890; title page imprint date 1889

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